

For All Moonkind, Item 4

**AGENDA ITEM 4**

23 March 2023

Madam Chairperson, distinguished delegates and representatives.

I am grateful for this opportunity to share with the Legal Subcommittee some information about the activities of For All Moonkind under this agenda item. However, Madam Chairperson, let me first express our appreciation for your excellent leadership of the Subcommittee as well as the outstanding organization of the Committee by the indefatigable Niklas Hedman and his efficient and accomplished team.

Distinguished delegates. As many of you are aware, For All Moonkind is an international, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization and a Permanent Observer organization of the COPUOS. We are the only organization that seeks to promote the recognition of, and appropriate protections for, human heritage sites in outer space. In so doing, we endeavour to promote a sustainable balance between the protection of important cultural heritage sites and the exploration and utilization of space and its resources.

For All Moonkind is an entirely volunteer organization. With a growing team of more than 100 space lawyers, cultural heritage legal specialists and related experts from around the world, we strive to spur and encourage the development of an international framework to identify and provide appropriate protection for relevant sites in outer space before the disturbance of these sites occurs.

We are pleased to report that we are developing a novel, digital catalog of all human-made items on the lunar surface. Working with the Beyond the Earth Foundation, we have identified 111 sites on the Moon that contain human-made material. The catalog, based on blockchain technology, will be available through an illustrative, freely available website in

order to share the data and information about each site with as wide a global audience as possible. It will be an immutable, transparent, accountable and dynamic record that can be added to and updated in real-time.

Distinguished delegates. In 2022, For All Moonkind hosted three high-level summits. The first held in January, offered a critical assessment of the substantive legal issues deriving from the US One Small Step Act and Section 9 of the Artemis Accords, the only two current limited initiatives to protect human heritage as humanity moves beyond low-Earth orbit.

The two subsequent Summits critically assessed unique case examples of legally created safety zones on Earth structured under similar limitations as those that exist beyond Earth. Both Summits considered existing laws, policies and agreements for the protection of cultural heritage beyond areas of national jurisdiction on Earth in order to assist with facilitating the creation of a space law framework to safeguard cultural heritage in potential safety zones beyond Earth. Such an expanded legal framework is critically needed as increasing numbers of public, private and public-private actors advance plans to explore the Moon and other celestial bodies under emerging narrow agreements negotiated as a recourse for lack of such guidance from normative instruments. We are in the process of creating a report on the outcomes of these Summits and will share them on our website: [forallmoonkind.org](https://forallmoonkind.org).

Distinguished delegates. We hope that this pivotal Subcommittee might be open to the need and commence consideration of how to address cultural heritage in space and would like to respectfully propose some small steps could be taken in the near future.

Firstly, the COPUOS could agree to compile a definitive list and location of all the sites and objects on the Moon. For All Moonkind's digital catalog would be an excellent starting point.

Second, the Committee could identify, recognize and celebrate a small number of sites that embody historic firsts. As an example: Luna 2, the first human object to impact another celestial body; Luna 9, the first human object to make a soft landing on another celestial body; Apollo 11, the first human footsteps on another celestial body; and Chang'e 4, the first soft landing on the far side of the Moon, could perhaps serve as a starting point.

Third, COPUOS could agree to provide guidelines with respect to temporary protective zones around these limited sites in order to give the international community additional time to discuss how to manage the protection of our cultural heritage without putting our history at risk.

Finally, we encourage this Subcommittee to work with the Working Group on the Long-Term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities to extend the LTS Guidelines to support the safety and sustainability of deep space activities, including legal, diplomatic, scientific and technical mechanisms for the identification and safeguarding of cultural heritage beyond Earth.

I thank you for your kind attention.